The moth is almost as scarce on the West side of the Pennines, the Ellis/Mansbridge list for Lancashire and Cheshire published by the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society in 1940 gives no record for Cheshire and refers to it as "scarce and local about juniper in N. Lancs (Silverdale and Warton)". Rev. J. H. Vine-Hall worked Hutton Roof Crag, a few miles East of these localities, until a few years ago and has told me that he never took it there in spite of an extensive expanse of wild juniper.

I was therefore surprised and delighted to find a specimen on my lighted front door on 27th October 1973 and felt sure I had a new County record. However, on checking with Mr Alan Creaser, the secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society, I found that he had forestalled me by three days, taking a specimen at Leasowe in the Wirral. I then checked with Monk's Wood who put me in touch with Mr R. Tratt of Wistaston, near Crewe, who took two specimens in October 1970 and several in 1971!

Our suspicions are similar to those of Mr Elgee of Acklam. Harrogate, Alderley Edge, Leasowe and Wistaston are all residential areas with plenty of large gardens. Present day attempts to reduce the labour involved in maintaining such gardens has led to much planting of shrubs, juniper among them. The conclusion is obvious, it only remains to find the larvae!—C. I. RUTHERFORD, Longridge, Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7BL.

NEPTICULA AENEELA HEINEMANN AS DISTINCT FROM N. OXYACANTHELLA STAINTON.—In my *Notes on some of the British Nepticulidae* II currently appearing in *The Entomologist's Record,* I invited readers in this country and on the continent to give their opinions on whether *aeneella* and *oxyacanthella* were distinct (*Ent. Rec.*, **85**: 176). I have received a most interesting letter on the subject from Mr B. J. Lempke of Holland. He refers to the Dutch handbook on Lepidoptera *Der Vlinders van Nederland* by P. T. C. Snellen (1882). Snellen, who was in close touch with the leading entomologists of his day and exchanged specimens with them, gives a description of *aeneella* and a comparison between it and *oxyacanthella* which correspond very closely with those I gave based on material in the British Museum (Natural History): moreover, Snellen's descriptions were made from fresh material received from Albarda and von Heinemann himself. Mr Lempke adds his own judgement that "it is quite clear that *oxyacanthella* and *aeneella* are different species".

Snellen describes *aeneella* as feeding on *Malus* and *Pyrus,* and *oxyacanthella* as feeding on *Crataegus, Malus* and *Sorbus aucuparia.* He thought he once found larvae of *aeneella;* they were "green caterpillars on apple, in mines like those of *oxyacanthella* but broader at the end and with the frass less distinctly arranged in a spiral". This is the fullest description

we have of the mine of *aeneella,* but as the moths were not bred we cannot be quite sure of the determination.

I am most grateful to Mr Lempke for his letter which adds weight to the opinions I expressed, viz. (a) *aeneella* and *oxyacanthella* are distinct; (b) modern continental microlepidopterists have lost sight of *aeneella* and are confusing apple-feeding *oxyacanthella* with it; and (c) there is no valid evidence for the occurrence of *aeneella* in Britain.—A. M. Emmet, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, 31.i.1974.

Infertility in Female Hyles gallii Rott.— On 25th July 1961 I trapped at Ottershaw, Surrey a female *H. gallii* which was in fair condition, almost certainly an immigrant, since eight other examples were recorded in widely distant places between 21st July and 1st August (French, *Entomologist,* **96**: 36). It was kept for eggs but laid none for nine days; when on point of natural death it produced 35, which proved infertile, and I judged from its appearane that many more remained in the body. I see that in the October number there are two other reports (*Ent. Rec.,* **85**: 247) of infertile females caught at light in 1973; and I have heard of similar disappointments, besides my own, in earlier years. It looks, therefore, as if Mr K. G. W. Evans' suggestion (*Ent. Rec.,* **85**: 298) that females of the *Sphingidae* will not fly until they have been mated cannot be sustained in the case of *H. gallii;* and that the fact that his example taken at Sandwich on 10th August was barren gives no clue to whether it was immigrant or locally bred. The records of other probable immigrants, for example of *Eurois occulta* (L.), show that females are often infertile when caught in Britain, the migratory urge (or is it just a strong favourable wind?) apparently overtakes them before a male has found them, and the chance that this will happen after they have been dispersed by migration is obviously small, though Mr J. Briggs has reported a slightly assisted case of this in the October number.

In conclusion, may I register a heartfelt though no doubt unavailing protest at the recent substitution of "*gallii* Rottemburg, 1775" for the "*galii* Denis and Schiffermuller, 1775" as the necessary name for this species? No doubt the authors of the new Kloet and Hincks have done their homework correctly and have found that Rottemburg did spell it like that and that under the international rules he has the priority. But for both authors the reference is clearly to *Galium* L. the most usual food-plant of the species, and it seems absurd that the school-boy spelling howler of Rottemburg or his printer should after two centuries be revived and immortalised to give a meaningless Gallic suggestion. Surely the international rules can do better than that or, if they cannot, their interpretors should use a sensible discretion.—R. F. Bretherton, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, GU5, 0LE, 13.ii.74.